

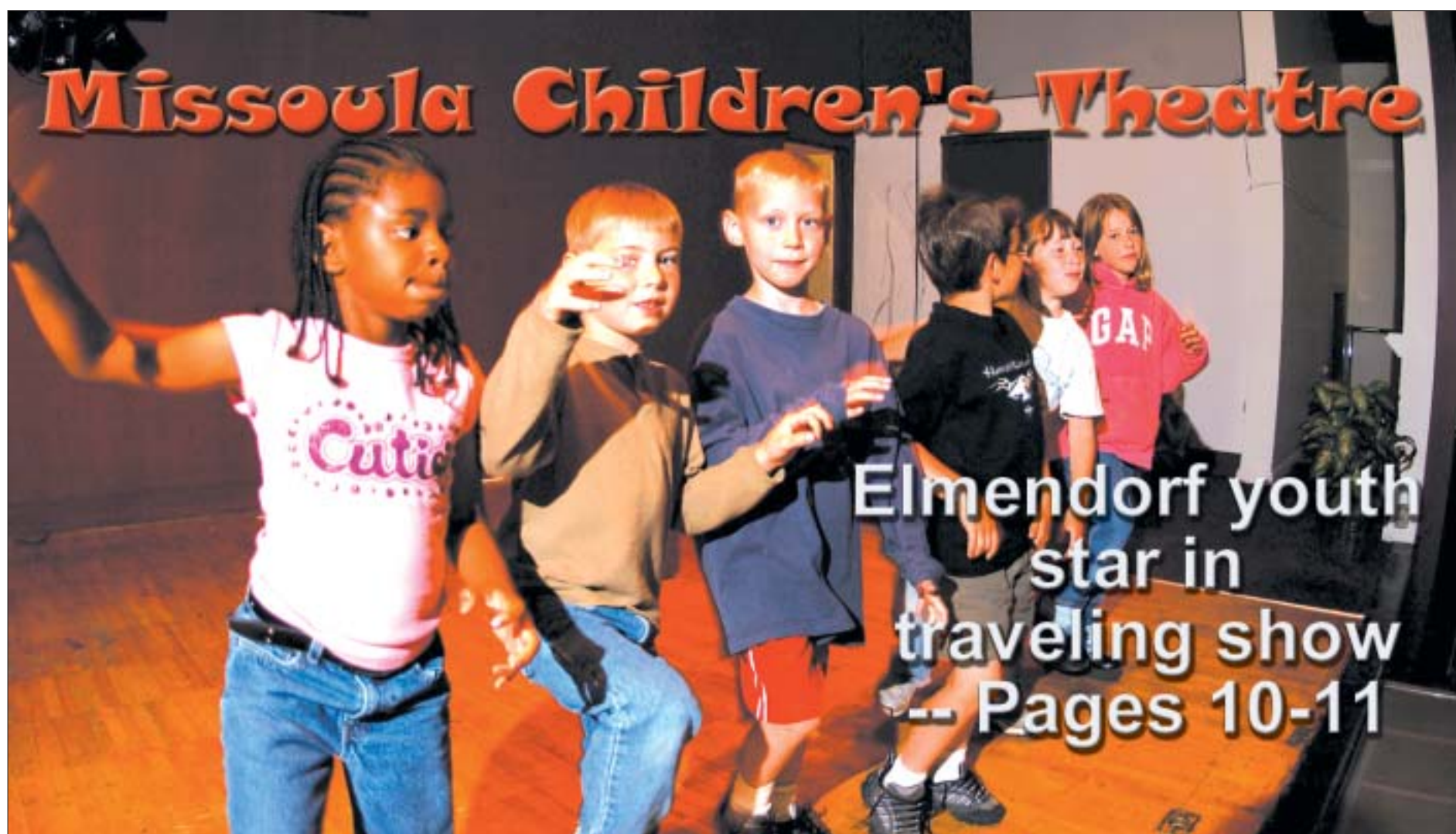
The Sourdough

S E N T I N E L

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Elmendorf PME Center receives Order of the Sword



By Staff Sgt. Connie L. Bias
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Elmendorf's Professional Military Education Center boasts a new display rich with military history and tradition. Gen. Patrick Gamble (Ret.) donated his Order of the Sword display to the PME Center Monday.

Gamble, who is retired in the local area, received the Order of the Sword April 6, 2001. Chief Master Sgt. Ron Crowl, who is now the 611th Air Support Group deputy command representative for missile defense, was Gamble's PACAF command chief, and nominated the general for the Order of the Sword.

"I had the distinct pleasure of working for Gen. Gamble for three years straight," said Crowl. "I was on the road about 220 days per year; therefore, I had a lot of opportunity to hear airmans' concerns. Not once after any trip did I ever come back and say that we've got an issue from an airman, that he didn't say, 'Go fix it, Chief.' Additionally, he never said, 'No, we can't do that.'"

Crowl's nomination package for the general included numerous pages of bullets outlining Gamble's support for enlisted concerns and people. These included hard-hitting support for First Term Airmen Centers, NCO professional development seminars, time off after contingency deployments, increased dormitory renovation funding and family member education.

"I can tell you, (his support covered) policy issues from the Air Force level down to airman basics' concerns," said Crowl. "Each one of them was dealt with separately and justly."

Gamble, however, doesn't see his Order of the Sword as a personal asset or ego boost, nor does he wish to keep the display to himself.

"When you get something like this given to you," Gamble said, "there's no way you can keep it in your house. It's not designed to be personal."

As the highest honor an enlisted member can bestow upon an officer, the Order of the Sword is designed to demonstrate the successful bond and link between officers and the enlisted corps.

"It's that teamwork and kinship, whether in peace or war, that we go through together as we fight and prepare to fight in this Air Force,"

explained Gamble. "This is a symbol of mutual respect."

Now that symbol is displayed in the PME Center, which holds Airman Leadership School and NCO Academy classes. Almost all Elmendorf airmen and many NCOs walk through the school's doors, along with a host of distinguished visitors.

"All the students who come through here will look at this," said Gamble. "They won't know what it is when they walk in the door for the first time, but hopefully by the end of their course, they'll understand it better. By the time they get to be seniors and chiefs, they will be the ones who decide who will get these awards in the future ... It seemed to me to be the right thing to do to put it here."

PME Center instructors and officials are thankful for the gift and proud to display it.

"It brings ceremony and heritage to the PME Center," said Chief Master Sgt. Douglas Mee, PME Center commandant. "What better place for airmen to walk through and see an honor that has been given to an officer for their representation of the enlisted force while they were in command. It makes airmen ask questions, and that's good because airmen don't always hear what a commander has done for the enlisted corps."

Above: Gen. Patrick Gamble (Ret.) cuts the ribbon Monday at the Elmendorf PME Center with help from Chief Master Sgts. Ron Crowl (left) and Douglas Mee. Below: Gamble stands next to his display. Craftsmen from the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron metals technology shop and the 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron woodworking shop created the display case and sword holder.



Order of the Sword has long military history, tradition

By Tech. Sgt. Robin Bachert
Elmendorf PME Center

Few Air Force members witness the ancient ceremony called the Order of the Sword. A ceremony conducted by noncommissioned officers to honor their greatest officer warriors and civilian equivalents, it honors those who have made significant contributions to the enlisted corps.

Established in early 12th-century Sweden, the noncommissioned officers of the time would occasionally honor a leader and pledge their loyalty by ceremoniously presenting him with a sword. The sword, a symbol of truth, justice and power rightfully used, allowed all to see that here was a leader among leaders and a man among men.

The ceremony became known as "The Royal Order of the Sword" and was passed through the ages, coming to this country about the time of the Revolutionary War. It lay dormant for many years after that, with the only known instance of its use in the 1860s, when Gen. Robert E. Lee was presented a sword by his command. The order was revived again in 1967 when the Military Airlift Command presented Brig. Gen. Roland J. Barnick with the sword.

Now each major command, field operating agency, direct reporting unit and headquarters Air Force have their own swords and perform their own ceremonies.

Editor's note: Some information for this story was taken from the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute Web site.

Military Personnel Flight

■ The Military Personnel Flight records section can only make five copies from your personnel records. This includes EPRs, decorations, reenlistment documents, etc. If you need more than five copies, contact your commander’s support staff.

■ Release 7 of the Virtual MPF began June 30. This release constitutes another step toward a sophisticated self-service platform for Air Force members.

One of the functions of Release 7 will be the retirement application, designed to allow enlisted members to apply for retirement through the VMPF. It’s targeted toward members who have no active-duty service commitments and don’t require any waivers.

The application is being positioned within this release for field testing in the August/September time-frame, and will be publicized for widespread use at the end of the test period.

■ The MPF customer service section requires sponsors to provide the following documents when updating spouses and children in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System):

- ◆ Spouse — marriage license, picture ID
 - ◆ Child — birth certificate, social security card
 - ◆ Newborn — temporary birth certificate from hospital
- For information, call 552-2276.



MAJ. JOHN KENNEDY

Visiting the Past

John Faulkner visited the P-38 display in front of 3rd Wing Headquarters July 30. Faulkner was stationed at Elmendorf as a second lieutenant, fresh out of Communications School during World War II. Faulkner was in charge of cryptological equipment and services for the 11th Air Force from January to October 1943. He was visiting the base with his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. “It’s an awesome thing to watch (F-15s from both the 12th Fighter Squadron and 90th Fighter Squadron take-off) and I’m proud of all you guys,” said Faulkner.

Outstanding performers

continued from Page 2

■ **Dianne Harrison**, 3rd Mission Support Squadron, Civilian Personnel Flight, “Attack

and Deliver,” was Harrison’s mode of operation when the 2002 Performance Management cycle closeout of 861 ratings, 624 cash awards and 11 Quality Step Increases unexpectedly became her responsibility. Harrison

mastered the unfamiliar and untried Modern Data System; established immediate rapport with HQ PACAF and AFPC officials to help massage data through the system; and implemented daily system changes.

Harrison took command, gave lead to eight QC monitors, perfected 3rd Wing and tenant data, insured timely input, checked for system engagement and assured delivery of \$553,720 in cash awards.

CSAF explains combat wing organization

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The combat wing organization is critical to both the service’s expeditionary mind-set and to individual career progression, the service’s senior officer said.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper talked about the combat wing organization and several other topics recently.

In the current wing organization, maintenance functions and personnel are “owned” by operational unit commanders. Under the new plan, maintainers will work for maintainers and form a pure maintenance group under one commander while maintaining their close relationship with operations.

Units have until Sept. 30, 2003, to make the change.

“Right now, if you’re a maintainer, you look up to the head of your leadership, and it’s the operations group commander,” Jumper said. “Chances are, you can never be that person.

“I want maintainers to be able to have a career progression that leads them to the head of a maintenance organization, and I want them to be as experienced at maintaining airplanes as operations group commanders (are) at flying airplanes,” Jumper said.

According to Jumper, the idea of maintainers being commanded by maintainers is not new to the Air Force.

“From 1978 to 1991 we had deputy commanders for maintenance,” Jumper said. “It was the system that got us into (Operation) Desert Storm with 92-percent mission capable rates in the fighter world.”

Besides enhancing maintenance career progression, this combat wing organization will strengthen the Air Force’s ability to mobilize.

“The hard part (of mobility) is going to be the mission support function,” he said. “It’s going to entail everything ... from crisis action planning, working with the joint system to get deployable loads into the airlift system, visibility of the (cargo) while it’s in transit, and the bedding down at the far end.”

Other deployable mission support functions will include planning and constructing a tent city, storing fuel and munitions, and plugging into the supply system from the forward-operating base.

“It’s a skill set that none of our officers have in total right now,” the chief of staff said. “But the new expeditionary support discipline will take all of these into account.

“The span of control is going to take into account all those skills and specialties that a commander has to be familiar with to set up a large tent city operation and make it work,” Jumper said. “I think that’s very important.”

Because all Air Force wings will be structured similarly to deployed organizations, the service will have a broader base from which to select support group commanders, Jumper said.

“When we deploy, it’s going to be in an expeditionary organization that I would like to look very much like the one we left back home,” Jumper said. “If you’re a support commander in a missile wing, air mobility wing, fighter or bomber wing, you can be called to command a support activity at a tent city ... because we’ve trained them all in the same way,” he said.

Other aspects of the wing reorganization include the creation of logistics readiness squadrons by merging supply and transportation squadrons; adding those new LRSs, contracting squadrons and aerial ports to existing support groups; and combining three officer career fields (supply, transportation and logistics plans) into a single logistics readiness officer career field.



1ST LT. JOHNNY REA

GETTING ‘PUMPED’

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — Staff Sgt. Larry Morgan, assigned to the Crisis Response Element at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, pumps iron in the base’s new fitness tent. Morgan is deployed to Al Udeid from Elmendorf, where he is the systems administrator for the Professional Military Education Center. Al Udeid is supported by KC-10 Extenders and KC-135 Stratotankers, which have delivered more than 250-million pounds of fuel over Afghanistan in the war on terrorism.

Gen. Jumper releases new Air Force reading list

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The chief of staff of the Air Force recently released his list of suggested books for Air Force people.

The latest Chief of Staff Reading List is a departure from past lists; it is not rank-specific.

“It’s appropriate for Air Force members of all grades to pursue it, as their time permits,” said

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper. “Also, it is my conviction that it’s useful for the generals to know what the young troops are reading and vice versa.”

The books were chosen because of their relevance to current issues affecting the Air Force.

“For the challenges the U.S. Air Force faces today, I have given priority to books regarding the recent past as more lesson-filled than the distant past; the transformation challenges we have

overcome and those that we still face; and a look to the future for clues to the asymmetrical vulnerabilities that await us,” Jumper said.

The Air Force Historian’s office is in the process of supplying each Air Force library with multiple copies of each of the books on the list.

“It is my intention that the course content within our professional military education system will be based in appropriate measure on the materials these books address,” Jumper said.

Chief of Staff Reading List

CATEGORY I: History of the Air Force from its beginning through its major transformations as an Institution

- *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s Over Germany* — Stephen E. Ambrose
- *Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the United States Air Force, 1947-1997* — Walter J. Boyne
- *The Transformation of American Air Power* — Benjamin S. Lambeth
- *Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II* — Geoffrey

Perret

■ *George C. Marshall: Organizer of Victory, 1943-1945* — Forrest C. Pogue

CATEGORY II: Insight into ongoing conflicts and the frictions that can produce conflicts in the future

- *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War On America* — Yossef Bodansky
- *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* — Samuel P. Huntington

- *War at the Top of the World: The Struggle for Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Tibet* — Eric S. Margolis
- *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia* — Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac
- *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power* — Daniel Yergin

CATEGORY III: Organization, leadership and success stories holding lessons for the present and future

- *The Five Pillars of TQM (Guidelines for Organizational Greatness)* — Bill Creech
- *American Generalship: Character is Everything: The Art of Command* — Edgar F. Puryear

CATEGORY IV: Lessons emerging from recent conflicts — and the preparation for them

- *Every Man A Tiger* — Tom Clancy with Chuck Horner
- *Prodigal Soldiers* — James Kitfield

Air Force releases all specialties from Stop-Loss beginning Sept. 1

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The last officer and enlisted specialties on Stop-Loss will be released beginning Sept. 1.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche said the release will be phased in during a one-month

period to allow affected personnel time for transition.

“We have arrived at a new steady-state,” Roche said. “Stop-Loss most certainly helped us get here successfully, but we had pledged all along that we wouldn’t hold onto anyone longer than necessary.”

The release, which affects three officer and 15 enlisted specialties,

will begin with people who had original retirement or separation dates prior to April 1. They will be able to leave beginning Sept. 1.

During the second phase, individuals with retirement or separation dates between April 1 and Sept. 30 can be released. In the final phase, anyone with a retirement or separation date of Oct. 1 or later can separate at his

or her established date.

Members can request to remain on active duty up to five months to transition to civilian life. The release does not apply to airmen who are currently deployed in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom; upon completion of deployment, people will have up to five months to transition.

Arctic Life

Great living in the great land

Fly south for winter with Aero Club

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Mattox
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Since the late 1940s, when Gen. Curtis LeMay found some of his officers rebuilding a small aircraft in a hangar at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., his direction was, "If we are going to do this, we are going to do it right!" That was and remains the reason aero clubs exist today.

Since then, aero clubs around the Air Force have provided servicemembers a way to spread their wings.

Since the early '60s, the Elmendorf Aero Club has provided the local military community a safe and inexpensive opportunity to learn to fly.

The Aero Club offers a full range of aircraft in its fleet of 10 planes: Cessna 152s, 172s, a 172RG, 206 and Piper Seneca II.

Today, the U.S. Air Force Aero Club Program has more than 335 aircraft and 6,000 members, and flies about 100,000 hours each year. This program supports the Air Force mission, allowing patrons to safely participate in professional aviation-training programs and low-cost flying, develop and maintain aeronautical skills, and develop an awareness and appreciation for aviation.

There are several benefits to being a member of the Aero Club.

One benefit is safety.

Aero clubs are many times safer than civilian competitors outside the gate, offering patrons an opportunity to learn to fly, continue their aviation education, and maintain critical flying skills.

"The greatest benefit Aero Club members have is safety," said Jim Allen, Elmendorf Aero Club manager. "We follow two sets of rules laid out by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and the Air Force."

Another benefit is cost.

"There is a tremendous cost-benefit for the member," Allen said. "We are not used just for recreational uses; we are an approved flight training school. This is where an F-15 pilot or any other club member can take their families or friends on a flight-seeing tour of Alaska without dealing with the costs from the ownership of an airplane."

The club also offers an introductory program for prospective pilots to get first-hand experience in a small airplane.

A family membership plan is also available. Members can rent any of the club's aircraft for temporary duty assignments and personal leisure trips.

To get a pilot license, students must pass three examinations: physical, written and practical. The average student takes five months to get their license, although many students spread their training over a longer period of time.

The first step is to pass a physical exam. Once obtained, future pilots can start working with an instructor.

The Aero Club has instructors available seven days a week year round.

After the physical exam, the Aero

Club conducts a formal eight-week ground school, costing \$280, which provides flight training for private pilot, instrument and commercial licenses. The club provides airframe and power plant familiarization training.

"The ground school helps club members prepare for the FAA written examination and is the preferred way," Allen said. "However, this is not the only way to prepare for the test; some individuals do self-study to prepare."

After a passing score is received from the written exam, a private-pilot license can be obtained after successful completion of 35 hours of flying instruction, and a successful flight check with an FAA-designated flight examiner. Sixteen years of age is the minimum age to fly solo, and 17 years is the minimum age to get a

license.

The average cost of a license is \$5,000. The cost consists of an initiation fee; monthly dues; a medical certificate; ground school and books; an exam fee; 65 hours of flying a Cessna 152; 35 hours of instruction; a check-ride fee; and miscellaneous accessories.

The rates are significantly less than what you would pay elsewhere, Allen said.

If you are active duty, tuition assistance pays for 75 percent of the ground school tuition. The Montgomery GI Bill may pay up to 60 percent of training costs.

Membership is open to all active-duty and retired military, Guard, Reservists, Department of Defense civilians and their family members.

For more information, call the Aero Club at 753-4167.

Aero Club gives free flight lessons

The Elmendorf Aero Club holds a membership drive through the end of August. The drive allows potential and current members a chance to win gift certificates for biennial flight reviews, currency rides, retail purchases or free introductory flight lessons.

July's flight lesson winners are:

- Army Staff Sgt. Charles Irvine
- Tech. Sgt. James Burmood

- Staff Sgt. David Rings
- Staff Sgt. Alicia Vernon
- Staff Sgt. Michael Starling
- Capt. Chara Lesnick

The Aero Club is located at Hangar 7 in Bldg. 10286, and is open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information, call the club at 753-4167 or go to www.elmendorfservices.com.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JOE LAWS

Jim Allen and Jody Methvim, Elmendorf Aero Club, pull the names of July's introductory flight-lesson winners.

In Focus

Air Force officials have announced the top historians for 2002. John Cloe, Master Sgt. Stanley Gohl and Tech. Sgt. James Frank Jr. of Elmendorf's history office won a U.S. Air Force Heritage Award.

► spotlight

► fri



Information Tickets & Travel

By Mary M. Rall
3rd Services Marketing

There is no shortage of things to do in the surrounding area; in fact, it might be difficult to know where to start.

You can stop all that head scratching and get to Information, Tickets, and Travel to pick up tickets for many local attractions.

One of the newest ticket opportunities at ITT is the Alaska Native Heritage Center, an exciting place where individuals can expand their knowledge of Alaska's first people. The center features the rich heritage of Alaska's eleven cultural groups and draws upon the lifestyles of ages past, the wisdom of elders and the traditions that endure. Tickets are \$17.95 for adults and \$13.45 for children.

Those who can't seem to

get enough of Alaska's scenery can pick up some tickets for the Alyeska Resort Aerial Tram. In the summer, the tram is operated at half speed, allowing plenty of time to enjoy the area's natural beauty. The tram travels from the Alyeska Prince Hotel to the upper tram terminal, located 2,300 feet above the valley floor. The tram is currently operating from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily, and ITT tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

An excuse to enjoy a scenic drive is just a ticket away when you purchase Alaska SeaLife Center tickets for \$11 for adults and \$9 for children. The center is a marine science facility dedicated to research, animal rescue, rehabilitation and public education. The center's research facilities and nature-based exhibits immerse visitors in the

dynamic marine ecosystems of Alaska and present an excellent opportunity to get a personal look at the nature that surrounds us daily.

Local attractions like the Imaginarium, the Alaska Experience Theater and Earthquake Exhibit, Major Marine glacier and wildlife tours, and Regal Cinemas are also offered at discounted ITT prices.

You can increase the deals by presenting your club card; as an Elmendorf club member, showing your card will save you an additional ten percent.

That additional ten percent savings is also available on ITT tickets for out-of-state attractions, such as Disneyland, Disney World, Universal Studios, The San Diego Zoo and more.

For more information, stop by ITT at 10492 Necrason St., or call 753-2378.

BEST BUNCH: Step up to the tee for the base championship. The three-day stroke-play tournament will have gross and net prizes in each division. This year there will be three divisions: active duty, retirees and DoD. 552-3821

MOVIE: *Juwanna Man* (PG-13) Jamal Jeffries and his trash-talking, ball-hogging, team-hating ways get him booted out of the league. A desperate, financially-strapped Jamal takes his last shot at crashing the boards. Transforming himself into female power forward "Juwanna Mann," Jamal scores a tryout with the only pro organization that will take him — the women's league. Starring Vivica A. Fox and Miguel A. Nunez Jr. 7 p.m.

► sat

OFF TO OZ: Base youth will perform in The Missoula Children's Theater free "Wiz of the West" production at 3 and 7 p.m. at the Kashim Club. 552-2674

MOVIE: *Hey Arnold* (PG) Arnold lives in his grandparents' boarding house with a group of eccentric grown-ups. Arnold goes up against a powerful industrialist who invades the city and buys everything in sight so he can knock it down and erect a huge "mall-plex." Can Arnold and his best friend Gerald find the document that can stop the bulldozers? 7 p.m.

► sun

TAKE A HIKE: Take to the trail for a Crow Creek Pass Hike for \$25 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023

MOVIE: *Juwanna Man* (PG-13) See Friday. 7 p.m.

► fyi

TOMBSTONE TRAIL: The Community Center features Tombstone Trail Oct. 26 from 3-9 p.m. This event will feature Haunted House and Trick or Treat Booth contests for squadrons and base organizations. Sign-ups will be taken through Oct. 1, so get on your broomstick and head for the Community Center. For information, call 552-2674.

► inside the fence

Outdoor Adventure Club, today at 5 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Powerline Pass Bike Ride, Saturday at 9 a.m. for \$15 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Road Bike Training, Monday and Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Day Hike, Monday at the Community Center. 552-4108
Eagle River Rafting, Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m. for \$15 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Stained Glass, Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. for \$60 at the Skills Development Center.

552-2031
Children's Summer Art Camp, Tuesday through Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$130 at the Skills Development Center. 552-2031
Game Night, Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at the Kashim Club. 753-6131
Kayak Training, Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. for \$20 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Beginning Crochet, Wednesday at 6 p.m. for \$25 at the Skills Development Center. 552-2031
Stained Glass, Wednesday at 6-8 p.m. for \$60 at the Skills Development Center.

552-2031
Summer Naturalist Trip, Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. 552-4108
Dog Days, buy one meal, get a second half-off Thursday at the Susitna Club. 753-3131
CGOC Night, Aug. 16 at The Cave. 753-6131
Basic Automotive Maintenance, Aug. 16 from 6-8 p.m. for \$20 at the Skills Development Center. 552-2031
Outdoor Adventure Club, Aug. 16 at 5 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Sign up for Skills Development Center classes three days in advance.

Check out the 3rd Services
Squadron on the Web!
www.elmendorfservices.com

Base helps nature replace beetle-killed spruce

By Doris Thomas
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Base forester Bob Morris is a man with a daunting mission: mitigate the damage inflicted by spruce bark beetles to Elmendorf’s forests. As part of his plan, Morris enlisted Scouts and volunteers from the 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight in planting 3,200 young spruce trees this summer on the northern portion of the base.

“Spruce bark beetles killed most of the mature spruce on base. To keep normal regeneration going, we are planting these seedlings,” Morris said, adding that it will be 20-25 years before these trees produce pinecones bearing seeds for another generation. Even then, the trees won’t be really mature until they are 50 years old. Morris expects that the base will have to plant spruce trees

every year for the foreseeable future to make up for the damage.

About 50 people were involved in the tree planting, most recently three employees from the environmental flight Friday afternoon, and about 15 Cub Scouts and eight Scout leaders on Saturday.

“It’s hard work,” Morris said, noting that volunteers had to move around in dense brush and watch their footing due to deadfalls and uneven ground. Other hazards include insects and devil’s club.

The seedlings, which included a few lodgepole pines, were purchased from the Alaska Tree Farm Committee, a non-profit landowner organization.

As of Saturday, all the trees except a few kept out for the base Christmas tree cutting area have been planted. Those 400 will be a project for an aspiring Eagle Scout.



Mary Weger, environmental flight, helped plant spruce trees Friday on the northern portion of the base.

Four base members selected for OTS

The following Elmendorf members have been selected to attend Officer Training School:

- Staff Sgt. Jason Baker, 381st Intelligence Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Michael

Chandler, 3rd Medical Group

- Staff Sgt. Jason Moll, 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron

- Staff Sgt. William Estep, 90th Fighter Squadron

BE IN THE KNOW

- Read the *Sourdough Sentinel*.
- Watch the Commander’s Access Channel (10.)
- Check Topcover for local news.
- Visit www.af.mil for daily Air Force news.
- Go to www.defenselink.mil for the latest from senior military leaders.

Attitude, not equipment or weapons, makes us great

By Lt. Col. Brian Jurkovac
43rd Airlift Wing Chief of Safety

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. — Too often, people depend on unit leadership to define how “good” things are. In reality, they are the ones who make their organization a better place to work.

Everyone has a stake in the effectiveness, health and welfare of his or her organization, base and community.

When I ask others about their best assignments or most rewarding experiences, their answers are surprising.

They list assignments to austere places supporting difficult missions, deployments and contingencies. They don’t always list the garden spots typically found on our dream sheets.

This is because people make the assignment what it is. It is not the hardware, the building or the location. You determine how good or bad your assignment was, is or will be.

Here are my top 10 ways of making the best of one’s present situation:

■ **Understand your mission.** Could you describe your unit’s mission to a visitor or new servicemember? Could you articulate how your specialty fits in? If not, ask an “old head” who has been around a while. You may find out how rich a heritage your unit has, and its historic significance

on the preservation of freedom and democracy around the world.

■ **Have loyalty in your unit.** Learn to trust the decisions and actions of your leadership. Resist the temptation to “bad-mouth” when things don’t go exactly as planned. Be part of the solution to unit challenges. Being loyal means helping others when they need you and taking action when you see an opportunity for improvement.

■ **Uphold, maintain standards.** Check yourself every day, starting with your uniform, your performance and, most of all, your attitude. You know what the standards are. Live up to them. Your unit will reflect the standards you set. Job competency is too often the toughest standard.

■ **Keep learning.** Leave your “know-it-all” attitude at the door. Try to learn something new about your unit’s mission, people or equipment every day. Never let your rank, job title or experience get in the way of learning. Above all, learn how to do things the safest way, the right way. As you learn, the whole unit becomes smarter, more diverse and more capable.

■ **Mentor.** The best way to have great folks in your unit is by teaching them the ropes and sharing your experiences. Spend time with your troops; show them, tell them and teach them the pitfalls of disaster and the ingredients for success.

■ **Listen.** Listening is an essential communica-

tion skill. Your troops will bring you their problems, but they can also bring you outstanding ideas if they know you will listen.

■ **Participate.** Participating in unit activities, both on and off duty, go into making the team a cohesive combat-ready element. Hone your leadership skills by spearheading a unit project.

■ **Be considerate.** One very basic social skill I learned as a child was “it was nice to be important, but it was more important to be nice.” Be considerate of others. That doesn’t mean you can’t tell it like it is, but you can do so nicely. Displaying even the simplest courtesies, like being on time, prepared and using the words “please” and “thank you” go a long way.

■ **Have integrity.** There is no contribution more significant to the health and success of your unit than integrity.

■ **Show pride.** You can be proud and enthusiastic about your unit without being boastful or arrogant. Pride is in the way you do your job; the way you never quit; the way you care about your performance and your unit’s achievements. Pride means you deliver on your promises and can be counted on when the going gets tough and the hours are long. Pride never says “it’s good enough for government work.”

It’s not equipment or weapons that make us great. It’s you.

Have a story to share?
Call the *Sourdough Sentinel* staff at 552-2493
or e-mail sourdough@elmendorf.af.mil

Sports News

Fish Run

Right: Bob Morris (left), biological science technician, and Herman Griese, wildlife biologist, herd and count fish at Six Mile Creek Saturday. This year's salmon count at the creek has exceeded 1,700 fish. The counts will determine if the run can sustain increased fishing pressure. A portion of the count was lost last weekend, when someone vandalized the weir and released the fish before they could be counted, impairing the Conservation Office's ability to accurately track returning salmon. Since the incident, base wildlife agents have been patrolling the Six Mile outlet weir.



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Sports Shorts

Polar Bowl

■ The Polar Bowl starts Saturday Nite Live Mixed Doubles Bowling League in September. Games will take place every Saturday at 6 p.m.

■ Ladies can join a Monday-night bowling team in September, every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. Three women make a team.

For information, call Mabel Williams at 337-1523.

Eagleglen Golf Course

■ The Elmendorf Base Championship is today through Sunday. The championship is a three-stroke day-play tournament with gross and net prizes in each division.

This year, there are three divisions: active duty, retirees and Department of Defense.

■ Eagleglen has a couple's tournament Aug. 23 from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$25 per couple, plus non-hole green fees.

The event features a potluck supper immediately following play, and entry includes dinner, drinks, long-drive and closest-to-the-pin prizes, and gift certificates.

For more information, call Eagleglen at 552-3821

Fitness Center

■ Flag football season kicks off this month through the Fitness Center. See your unit sports representative for more information.

■ The Fitness Center has a triathlon Sept. 6 at 1 p.m. T-shirts will be given to the first 30 participants.

For information, call 552-3622.

Rugby

The Alaskan Armed Forces Thunderbirds play at the Oosik Invitational Tournament Aug. 17-18 at 11 a.m. at Davis Field.

Baseball

The Elmendorf Eagles play in the 2002 Men's Adult Baseball League championship Saturday through Aug. 18 at Mulcahy Stadium.

Women's softball

■ **Monday, 5:30 p.m.** — 732nd AMS vs. 3rd MDG at softball field 2

■ **Monday, 6:30 p.m.** — 3rd CS vs. 3rd CES at softball field 2

Outdoor Recreation

■ The Outdoor Adventure Program has the following trips available:

- ♦ **Saturday and Sunday** — Crow Creek Pass hike, \$25
- ♦ **Wednesday, 5-8 p.m.** — Rollerblading, free
- ♦ **Aug. 17, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** — Lower Matanuska Rafting, \$50
- ♦ **Aug. 18, 10 a.m.** — Berry Picking, \$5
- ♦ **Aug. 21, 5-8 p.m.** — Evening Trail Hike, \$5
- ♦ **Aug. 24, 9 a.m.** — 100-Kilometer Bike Ride
- ♦ **Aug. 24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** — ATV Day Ride, \$60
- ♦ **Aug. 18, 10 a.m.** — Berry Picking, \$5

■ All mountain, comfort and tandem bike rentals are \$2 off the daily rate in August.

■ Outdoor Recreation's Family Camp allows you to spend a weekend outdoors while staying close to home.

The campground is a self-service, first-come-first-serve operation. Campground stays are limited to 14 days.

For information, call Outdoor Recreation at 552-2023.